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SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 16 April 1981, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. JOHNSON (Ecuador)

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Consideration of reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX) by States Parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by Articles 10 to 12 (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1988 (LX) BY STATES PARTIES TO THE COVENANT CONCERNING RIGHTS COVERED BY ARTICLES 10 TO 12 (continued)

Report of Cyprus (E/1980/6/Add.3)

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Droushiotis (Cyprus) took a place at the Committee table.

1. Mr. DROUSHIOTIS (Cyprus) introducing his country's report, said that unfortunately, his Government was still encountering the same difficulties affecting the fulfilment of its obligations under articles 10 to 12 as it had faced when the report was submitted in 1979. It was hoped that the intercommunal talks in progress would lead to a just and lasting solution to the problem, thereby removing those difficulties.

2. Mrs. JIMENEZ BUTRAGUEÑO (Spain), referring to page 4, section B (c) of the report of Cyprus, asked whether the pension of a working widow continued to be paid if she was employed. She further asked whether in exceptional cases, such as incapacity on the part of the husband, a widower's pension might be payable. Referring to sections B (a) and (b) of the report, concerning maternity protection, she asked what was the distinction between a maternity grant and a maternity allowance and requested further information on the contributions referred to in those sections. Referring to section A (2) of the report she asked whether religious institutions had priority over civil legislation in defining marriageable age.

3. Mr. SAMSON (International Labour Organisation) drew attention to the information concerning Cyprus provided in the report of the ILO Committee of Experts (E/1981/41, pp. 11-12) concerning maternity protection, and noted that provisions of relevance to the implementation of the Covenant were to be found in collective agreements.

4. The Government of Cyprus had stated its intention to adopt legislation providing for maternity leave and improved protection against termination of employment during maternity leave. The ILO Committee of Experts had requested information on progress in the adoption of those measures and on any measures taken or contemplated to regulate the conditions of work of women during pregnancy and after childbirth. ILO assistance had been provided in the codification and improvement of existing legislation dealing with work by children and young persons. There had been a considerable number of projects in which ILO experts had collaborated with the Government of Cyprus in that respect. The ILO Committee of Experts also considered that information would be desirable on any measure to raise the minimum age for non-industrial employment, which was generally 13 years, and to extend compulsory schooling so as to facilitate the observance of legislation relating to the minimum age of employment.

5. Mr. DROUSHIOTIS (Cyprus), in replying to the questions put by the representative of Spain, said that the maternity grant and maternity allowance were different, the grant being a lump sum paid to the mother giving birth to a child and the allowance being a weekly payment to the mother over a period of 12 weeks. The contributions referred to in the report were paid on a weekly basis. He would submit the questions concerning widows' pensions and whether there was a widower's pension to the competent authorities in Cyprus, who would provide further details.

6. The CHAIRMAN said that he took it that the Working Group had concluded consideration of the report by Cyprus (E/1980/6/Add.3).

7. Mr. Droushiotis withdrew.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.